SEAN MURPHY WITH MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

BATMAN™
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK FOUR

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CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT
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"WHAT'S THE MATTER, PUMPKIN?"
Gotham Elementary
I DON'T WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL ANYMORE.
"...I THOUGHT YOU LIKED SCHOOL?"
I DO, BUT--
DID SOMEONE HURT YOU?
A BOY ON THE PLAYGROUND. I PUSHED HIM WHEN HE TRIED TO KISS ME.
EMERGENC
"GOOD!"

BUT THEN HE PUSHED ME BACK. AND I FELL.
MY LIP WAS BLEEDING.
DID YOU TELL THE TEACHERS?
NO...
"...I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO GET INTO TROUBLE."
LISTEN TO ME--NEXT TIME SOMEONE HURTS YOU, I WANT YOU TO HURT THEM BACK. ***HARDER.***
BUT...HE'S A BOY AND HE'S BIGGER THAN ME.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER.
BUT ISN'T FIGHTING AGAINST THE RULES?
G.C.P.D
GOTHAM POLICE
"YOU'RE OLDER NOW, SO I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH--THERE ARE ***TWO KINDS OF RULES...***
"***...THEIR*** RULES AND ***YOUR*** RULES."
FROM NOW ON, ***YOUR RULES*** SAY THAT YOU FIGHT BACK.
WON'T I GET IN TROUBLE WITH MY TEACHERS?
YOU LET ME WORRY ABOUT YOUR TEACHERS.
GCPD
GOTHAM POLICE

THANKS, DAD.
WHAT'S THAT?
AND DON'T TELL MOM WHAT I SAID. YOU'LL ALWAYS BE HER LITTLE PRINCESS, AND SHE'D BE HEARTBROKEN IF SHE LEARNED *THE TRUTH.*
GCPD
911
POLI
"THAT YOU'RE NOT A PRINCESS. YOU'RE A FIGHTER.
"LIKE ME."
BYE, DAD. I LOVE YOU.
GOODBYE, PUMPKIN.
GOTHAM
POLICE

BATMAN
CURSE OF THE WHITE KNIGHT

BOOK FOUR

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Matt Hollingsworth
Colors & Cover Colors

AndWorld Design
Letters

Batman
created by
Bob Kane with Bill Finger

THEY MANAGED TO ESCAPE WITH ALL THREE OF YOU THERE?!
BARBARA, WE'RE JUST AS UPSET AS YOU ARE--
HE WAS MURDERED WHILE YOU WERE GETTING DRUNK!
-SNIFF-
...BELIEVE ME, KIDDO. I WISH IT HAD BEEN ME.
WHY GO AFTER MY DAD?! I THOUGHT THEY WERE ONLY TRYING TO KILL BATMAN!
BECAUSE OF THE NAPIER INITIATIVE.
IF YOUR FATHER BECAME MAYOR, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A BIGGER THREAT TO THEM.
NO, THEY KILLED HIM BECAUSE OF YOU! BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU STARTED-- HE BELIEVED IN YOU!
BARBARA...
AND HE WAS WILLING TO PUT IT ALL ON THE LINE WHILE YOU HID IN THE SHADOWS. AND THAT'S WHY HE DIED--BECAUSE HE WASN'T A COWARD.
BABS...
LET HER GO.
BUT--
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MANHUNT, GRAYSON. I NEED YOU TO STAY FOCUSED.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE A PARENT, RENEE!
BESIDES, WHO PUT YOU IN CHARGE?

JAMES GODDAMN GORDON DID!
AND IF YOU'RE GOING TO CONTINUE WORKING FOR THE GTO, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO FOLLOW *MY ORDERS.*
WHAT'S THE MOVE, COMMISSIONER? HOW WE GONNA FIND THIS GUY?
AZRAEL.
I HEARD HIM SAY IT TO GORDON.
AZRAEL-- WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?
AZRAEL WAS THE ARCHANGEL OF DEATH.
THE WAY THEY FLANKED US OUTSIDE THE BAR, THE WAY THEY PLANTED EXPLOSIVES AT WAYNE MANOR--I SMELL EX-MILITARY.
AGREED. CHECK THE DATABASE FOR ANYTHING RELATED TO AZRAEL.
BULLOCK, GO BACK AND HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE CRIME SCENE. AND TAKE GRAYSON WITH YOU.
WE'RE ALL TARGETS NOW, SO NO ONE LEAVES THIS BUILDING ALONE, AND THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO...
...BATMAN.
SERIOUSLY?
HE JUST DISAPPEARED BEFORE I FINISHED SPEAKING?
GOD THAT MUST HAVE DRIVEN GORDON *NUTS.*
GTO

HOW ARE THEY, LESLIE?
HEALTHY. A LITTLE UNDERWEIGHT, BUT I'M NOT TOO WORRIED.
AND HOW IS HARLEY?
EXHAUSTED. SHE HASN'T SLEPT MORE THAN TWO HOURS.
IT'LL BE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE SHE FULLY RECOVERS.
ARE YOU SURE TAKING HER IN LIKE THIS IS *WISE?*
I NEED HER HELP.
BRUCE--

DON'T WORRY, I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
TELLING HER YOU'RE BATMAN?
IT WON'T MATTER MUCH LONGER, ANYWAY-- SOON THE ENTIRE CITY WILL KNOW.
GOOD LORD, BRUCE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE TRUTH GETS OUT THERE? WHAT IT'LL DO TO YOU? TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU--
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
...
GORDON WAS KILLED TONIGHT.
BRUCE...
...OH MY GOD...

ANYTHING FROM THE CRIME SCENE?
NOT YET.
YOU?
COMBING THROUGH EVERY SECURITY CAMERA IN THE AREA. **BLOCK BY BLOCK.**
BABS...
DON'T.
...MONTOYA IS GOING TO ORDER YOU TO TAKE A LEAVE OF ABSENCE. SO YOU HAVE TIME TO GET OVER THE LOSS--
GCPD
GTO
THEN I'LL QUIT THE GTO. NO ONE CAN STOP ME FROM FINDING HIM.
YOU KNOW I LOST MY PARENTS, TOO. ***AS DID BRUCE.***
I'M JUST SAYING...YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALONE. YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE A--
THIS ISN'T A FAMILY, DICK.
YOU KNOW WHO FIRST TOLD ME THAT? ***YOU.***
GCPD
GTO
WELL, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT. IT'S JUST...I SPENT A LONG TIME BEING ANGRY--
YOU ***SHOULD*** BE ANGRY. ***WE ALL SHOULD.***
BABS--
GTO

CAPES, COWLS, AND SECRET IDENTITIES--THIS INSANITY RUINED OUR LIVES. BUT NO ONE WANTS TO SAY ANYTHING BECAUSE WE'RE IN TOO DEEP.
GCPD
HE'S OUT OF HIS MIND, DICK! AND WE ALL BOUGHT INTO IT!
PULL YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR ASS-- *THIS ISN'T WORKING!*
I'M NOT IN THE HABIT OF DEFENDING HIM...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR--*YOU AND I CHOSE THIS.*
AND SO DID YOUR FATHER.
IF YOU NEED ME, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
CUSTOMIZED MILITARY VEHICLE FROM THE 1970S?
THAT'S GOTTA BE HIM.
CLACK
CLACK CLACK
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"HOW MANY SAFE HOUSES DO YOU HAVE?"

ONE IN EACH BOROUGH.
WHY? DID YOU EXPECT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN ONE DAY?
JOKER SAID SOMETHING ABOUT *GOTHAM DROWNING IN SECRETS.* I'M WONDERING IF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ***GOTHAM RESERVOIR.***
HUH. SO, ALFRED FINALLY TOLD YOU ABOUT THE JOURNAL.
YOU KNEW?!
WHO DO YOU THINK HELPED HIM GET IT?
AND THE TWO OF YOU TOOK IT...
...FROM ***THE JOKER?***
"IT WAS YEARS AGO--YOU HADN'T BEEN WEARING THE COSTUME FOR VERY LONG, BUT IT WAS ALREADY BEGINNING TO CONSUME YOU.
"HE KNEW THERE WAS NO STOPPING IT, SO ALFRED DID WHATEVER HE COULD TO SUPPORT YOU--RUNNING THE ESTATE, MANAGING YOUR BUSINESS AFFAIRS, SORTING THROUGH YOUR MAIL...
Dear Bruce
I'm in possession of an object that could have dangerous repercussions for you and for Batman. Please meet me at this address where we can discuss it further.
27 Wharf St
Old Gotham
"...THAT'S WHEN HE FOUND THE LETTER.
"ALFRED SWORE TO YOUR FATHER THAT HE'D ALWAYS PROTECT YOU, EVEN IF IT MEANT KEEPING SECRETS. HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY ABOUT THE LETTER--SO HE HOPED TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE ***ALONE.***
"BUT I INSISTED ON ***GOING WITH HIM.***"

"THE ADDRESS WAS IN THE OLDEST PART OF GOTHAM, ON A STREET I'D NEVER HEARD OF.
THE APOTHECA
OBSCURA
"IT WAS IN THE BASEMENT OF AN OLD PHARMACY."
ALFRED PENNYWORTH, GUARDIAN OF THE WAYNES.
AND LESLIE THOMPKINS.
PLEASE SIT. TAKE YOUR DRINK.
FOR ALFRED, A BRANDY-- THE '76 NOTTINGHAM. AND FOR LESLIE, A WHITE ZINFANDEL.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
WHO ARE YOU?
NOTTINGHAM
Edward Wayne
A PRIEST--THE LAST KNIGHT OF THE ORDER OF ST. DUMAS.
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE NOT IN ANY DANGER--I'M NOT A WARRIOR-PRIEST OF THE OLD ORDER.
I'M OF THE NEW ORDER-- A LIBRARIAN, A HISTORIAN, AND A COLLECTOR.
WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?
Edward Wayne
I TOOK IT.
FROM THE JOKER.

IT'S A WARNING--
SHINK
YOU'LL FIND I DON'T RESPOND WELL TO **WARNINGS.**
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, MR. PENNYWORTH-- **THE JOURNAL IS A GIFT FOR BRUCE.** AS HIS GUARDIAN, **I'LL COUNT ON YOU** TO GIVE IT TO HIM WHEN YOU THINK HE'S READY.
ALFRED, PUT THAT AWAY--
NOTTINGHAM
THIS ARTIFACT IS IMPORTANT-- MAYBE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT BRUCE WILL EVER OWN. IN IT ARE CLUES TO THE PAST AND THE CURSE THAT HAS PLAGUED THE WAYNES.
THAT'S WHY I TOOK IT FROM THE JOKER--WE CAN'T HAVE HIM REIGNITING THE BLOOD FEUD BETWEEN THE **WAYNES** AND **BAKKARS.**
...
GASP
"THEY ALL JUST VANISHED?"

ALFRED SPENT YEARS STUDYING THE JOURNAL, BUT HE COULDN'T FIGURE OUT IT'S TRUE MEANING, AND WHAT IT MEANT FOR YOUR FAMILY. BUT HE WAS CONVINCED *IT WAS BAD.*
HE TRIED TO *DESTROY IT*, BUT I STOPPED HIM.
I TOLD ALFRED IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT WAS IN THE JOURNAL--YOU HAD A *RIGHT TO KNOW.*
SO HE HID IT, HOPING THAT ONE DAY YOU'D BE ABLE TO PIECE IT ALL TOGETHER.
A "CURSE" THAT'S PLAGUED GOTHAM...
...A *BLOOD FEUD* BETWEEN THE WAYNES AND THE BAKKARS....
...WHATEVER IT IS, I NEED TO FIGURE IT OUT. *FAST.*
MIGHT BE THE ONLY WAY TO FIND *AZRAEL.*

GOTHAM POLICE
GUN ROOM
GT
!
SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT?
I...I FOUND THIS VEHICLE PARKED NEAR THE ATTACK. SO I RAN IT THROUGH THE SYSTEM AND GOT A MATCH FROM A HIGHWAY CAM ON THE GOTHAM INTERSTATE.
AND YOU DON'T PLAN ON ARRESTING HIM?
NO.
I DON'T.

ATTA GIRL.
YOU DRIVE.
BAVROOOOM
VROOOOO

BATMAN, **COME IN.** BATGIRL AND BULLOCK ARE MISSING.
WHAT?
TOOK THE TUMBLER AND TURNED OFF THE GPS TRACKER.
I ASSUME YOU INSTALLED **BACKUP LOCATORS** ON ALL THE BATMOBILES? WITHOUT TELLING ANY OF US?
...
SHE'S HEADED UP ROUTE 1, NEAR THE GOTHAM RIVER.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
OPEN 24 HR
"HERE, TAKE YOUR PILLS."

-KAFF- -KAFF-
I DON'T NEED PILLS. GOD WILL--
DON'T START THAT SHIT, JP.
YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES...DIE ON YOUR ASS FROM CANCER, OR DIE ON YOUR FEET LIKE A SOLDIER.
SO TAKE THEM.
YOU THINK THESE PILLS CAN REALLY SAVE ME?
FROM CANCER, YES. BUT MAYBE NOT FROM RUTH.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KILLING GORDON WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN! RUTH WANTED US TO DO THIS QUIETLY--
TO HELL WITH RUTH--SHE FORGETS WHOSE VALLEY THIS IS.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY WAY OUT OF THIS, DO YOU? YOU'RE ON A SUICIDE MISSION.
THEN WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?
YOU KNOW WHY.
WE MIGHT NOT LIKE IT, BUT WE'RE NOT LETTING YOU DO THIS ALONE.
CRASH

CRASH
...BATMAN?
WORSE.
THWIP
click
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BARBARA.
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?

HE'S ALIVE?!
BRAAAT
PIN THEM DOWN!
WHUD
SHOOT HIM!
I SAID *SHOOT HIM!*
CRACK
GLLLRKK

LEAVE THEM OUT OF THIS. *IT'S ME YOU'RE AFTER!*
I THOUGHT YOU WERE BURIED UNDER THE RUINS OF YOUR STOLEN FORTUNE. BUT I CAN SEE HE SPARED YOU.
WHO?
GOD.
THAT MEANS HE WANTED US TO FIGHT IN THE OPEN BATTLEFIELD LIKE THIS.
FWOOSH
THIS IS YOUR *DESTINY...*
...THIS IS YOUR *RETRIBUTION.*
ARGH!
THIS IS *GOD'S WILL.*
I KNOW ABOUT EDMOND AND BAKKAR--AND *I DON'T CARE* WHAT YOU THINK WE TOOK FROM YOU. THE WAYNES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE RIGHTFUL PROTECTORS OF GOTHAM...
...AND WE ALWAYS WILL BE.
I AGREE.
WHAT?!
THOK

DOWN THERE!
JP, WE GOTTA MOVE.
I'M NOT FINISHED--
BRATTA BRATTA BRATTA
DON'T ARGUE WITH ME.
WE ALREADY LOST MICHAEL.
RELAX LIEUTENANT.
BULLOCK-- LOOK AT ME.
BARBARA. WHERE'S BARBARA?!

Written & illustrated by

SEAN MURPHY

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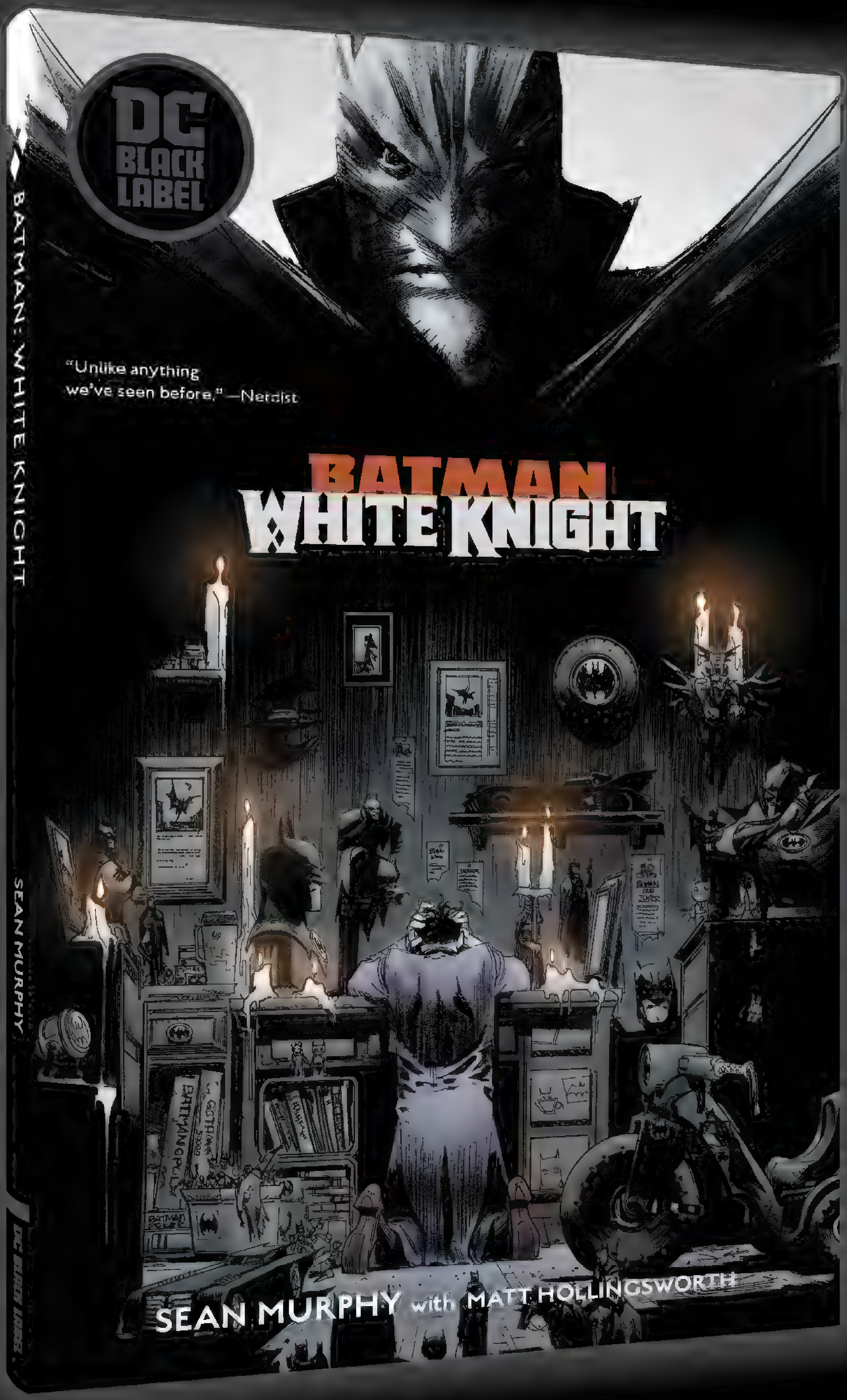
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"Unlike anything we've seen before." —Nerdist
BATMAN WHITE KNIGHT
BATMAN: WHITE KNIGHT
SEAN MURPHY
SEAN MURPHY with MATT HOLLINGSWORTH

"Cinematic and graphic."
—A.V. Club

"Murphy was truly born to draw Batman."
—IGN

"A breakout hit."
—SyFy Wire

"Holy cow do you get your money's worth."
—Nerdist

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